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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. Ev. SO - 25242

COUNTRY

Portugal

DATE DISTR. 5 AUG

SUBJECT

Attitude of the Portuguese Government

Toward the Opposition

PLACE

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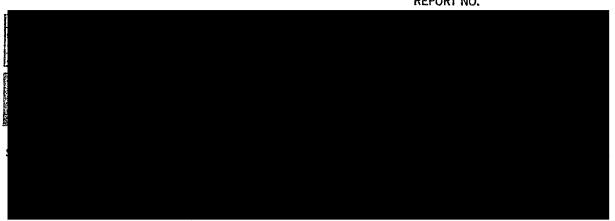
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



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- 1. Prime Minister SALAZAR, although aware of the dangers in Portugal's present economic situation, intends to make no changes in the structure of the Government in order to combat these dangers. Fersons who know SALAZAR well state that it would be "completely out of character" for him to do so. According to well-informed opinion SALAZAR would rather resign than suggest such changes as have been attributed to him. 25X1X
- 2. Supporting SALAZAR in his opposition to change, Ministers of War, Fernando dos SANTOS COSTA, and Interior, Augusto CANCELA DE ABREU, who are most emphatically against change, and the Finister of Justice, Manuel Goncalves CAVALEIRO DE FERREIRA, who shares their desire to perpetuate the Government as it is. ■ these Ministers probably would 25X1X oppose the inclusion of any member of the opposition in the Government and would suggest the forceful suppression of any expression of dissatisfaction by either a segment of the population, or the people as a whole. However,

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the fact that the Government hopes to include men in the cabinet known to be sympathetic toward the restoration of the Lonarchy in Fortugal and in support of SALAZAR's present policy toward the United States and Great Britain.* 25X1X

3. true the statement that the opposition has insisted upon publication of a critical analysis of the financial and economic condition of the country and upon official recognition being granted the

25X1X opposition. On the other hand, find no truth in reports that the opposition has demanded an amnesty declaration for all 25X1X

persons arrested on charges of political offenses. Such offenses, are only incidental to criminal offenses. The Communists 25X1X imprisoned in Tarrafal are not political offenders, but criminals who have attacked the security of the State; consequently, there can be no revision of these offenses without a radical change in the penal law.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- 4. The Minister of Justice, the Minister of Ministe
- 5. Reportedly, the only opposition leader with whom SALAZAR has been in direct contact is Cunha LEAL; contact with other oppositionists is carried out through Bissaia BARRETO, a close friend of SALAZAR.

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